

EPA Climate Change and Water News

July 27, 2012

The *EPA Climate Change and Water News* is a bi-weekly newsletter from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Water that features news and information about EPA and other federal activities related to climate change and water. Partner activities, as well as related events and publications, are also included.

For more information on climate change and water, please visit our website:
<http://www.epa.gov/water/climatechange>.

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U.S. EPA News

EPA Provides Funding to Expand the Use of Green Infrastructure

EPA announced that it will provide \$950,000 in funding to 17 communities in 16 states in order to expand green infrastructure. By managing rainwater where it falls through the use of vegetation and soil, green infrastructure keeps polluted stormwater from entering community sewer systems. The funding for green infrastructure will increase public health and improve water quality while creating jobs and revitalizing neighborhoods. The funds will benefit a diverse group of communities. Some communities, like Beaufort, South Carolina and Neosho, Missouri, are small towns in urban growth areas interested in preserving and protecting their healthy waterways. Others, such as Camden, New Jersey and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, are large cities interested in adding green infrastructure into their redevelopment projects to restore degraded urban waters and help revitalize their communities. The selected communities also provide an opportunity to demonstrate the potential of green infrastructure across a range of climate zones. For more

information on the communities involved, please visit:

http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/greeninfrastructure/gi_support.cfm#CommunityPartnerships.

EPA Issues Clean Water State Revolving Fund Green Project Reserve

EPA is releasing a suite of materials highlighting the innovative approaches states have used to successfully implement projects that address green infrastructure, water or energy efficiency, or other environmentally-innovative activities using the Clean Water State Revolving Fund's (CWSRF) Green Project Reserve. The CWSRF program attempts to achieve innovative solutions to wastewater infrastructure needs, achieving economic and environmental benefits for years to come. The Green Project Reserve requires all CWSRF programs to direct a portion of their capitalization grants toward projects that address green infrastructure, water or energy efficiency, or other environmentally-innovative activities. While these type of projects have always been eligible for CWSRF financing, the Reserve originated as part of the American Recovery Act of 2009 (ARRA). With the success of the Green Project Reserve implemented under ARRA, approximately 30 percent of total ARRA funding for CWSRF projects went to Reserve projects. The Reserve has become a part of all subsequent CWSRF appropriations. For more information, please visit: http://water.epa.gov/grants_funding/cwsrf/Green-Project-Reserve.cfm.

EPA Region 10 Research TMDL for Temperature Under a Changing Climate Pilot and Washington State Department of Ecology South Fork Nooksack River Temperature TMDL Workshop Materials Available

On June 25, 2012, EPA and the Washington State Department of Ecology conducted a Temperature TMDL (total maximum daily load) workshop for the South Fork Nooksack River (S.F. Nooksack River) in coordination with the Nooksack Tribe and Lummi Nation. In addition, EPA Region 10 has partnered with EPA's Office of Research and Development (ORD) and Office of Water (OW), and together they initiated a Pilot Research Project to consider how projected climate change impacts for the S.F. Nooksack River could be incorporated into the TMDL and thereby influence restoration plans. The goal of the Pilot Research Project is to (1) provide input to the Regulatory TMDL for additional modeling runs that can capture climate change scenarios and (2) to serve as an example of process and analysis for other TMDLs. The EPA Region 10 Climate Change and TMDL Pilot aims to demonstrate how cutting-edge science can be applied in a real-world, problem solving context with the participation of scientists, environmental practitioners and stakeholders. For more information on the research, please visit: <http://www.epa.gov/wed/pages/whatsnew.htm>.

To view materials from the workshop, please visit:

http://www.epa.gov/wed/pages/KleinWorkshop/EPA%20Region%2010%20Climate%20Change%20TMDL%20Pilot_Workshop%20Agenda.pdf.

Other Federal Agency News

National Ground Water Monitoring Network Established by the Advisory Committee on Water Information

On July 11, 2012, the Advisory Committee on Water Information (ACWI), a Federal Advisory Committee created by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and chaired by the US Geological Survey (USGS), approved the implementation of the National Ground Water Monitoring Network (NGWMN) developed by its Subcommittee on Ground Water. The Subcommittee is composed of 70 members from federal (including EPA), state and local agencies, water associations, and private sector associations. The national network will be implemented in partnership with states through their existing monitoring networks. The key element of the network is its data portal, which provides access to state ground water data for selected areas (including interstate areas). Not all states have made data available to the portal (This will be a focus of activity in 2013 and beyond). However, USGS and EPA ground water data are currently accessible. States will continue to manage their data. The portal acts as an access point that puts data in a common format for ease of use. A user can download and save the data to an Excel table or another format. Based on ACWI approval, the Subcommittee on Ground Water will begin to fully implement the NGWMN in 2013. Tribal participation will be encouraged. To access the portal, please visit: http://cida.usgs.gov/gw_data_portal/index.jsp.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Releases Report: *2011 State of the Climate*

On July 10, 2012, NOAA released the *2011 State of the Climate Report* - a peer reviewed paper compiled by 378 scientists from 48 countries around the world. This report looks at the extreme weather events that occurred in 2011 and also analyzes global climate indicators and monitoring stations and instruments used on land, sea, ice, and sky. The report states that 2011 was the coolest year on record since 2008, but it remained above the 30-year average (1981-2010). La Nina, the cool phase of the El Niño-Southern Oscillation, was the major cooling factor, globally in 2011. At the same time, the influence of human-caused global warming on the climate system continues to grow. The report identified "human fingerprints" in more than two dozen climate indicators examined by this international research team, from air temperatures to ocean acidity. For more information and access to the full report, please visit: <http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/bams-state-of-the-climate/2011.php?CFID=1179891&CFTOKEN=60639931>.

Other News

American Rivers Releases Report: *Money Pit – The High Cost and High Risk of Water Supply Reservoirs in the Southeast*

The report, *Money Pit: The High Cost and the High Risk of Water Supply Reservoirs in the Southeast*, documents the financial risks and water resource risks tied to the development of new reservoirs in the region. The report outlines five key financial and resource risks inherent in the pursuit of new water supplies from reservoirs, and offers five key recommendations for local leaders who seek to reduce community risks—including both financial risks and closely linked water resource risks—in planning for enough clean water for the future. The report comes at a time when many local governments throughout Georgia, the Carolinas and neighboring states are considering significant spending of public taxpayer and ratepayer dollars to build new water supply reservoirs. The report is available for download at: <http://www.americanrivers.org/library/reports-publications/money-pit.html>.

Registration Open for 27th Annual WaterReuse Symposium from September 9-12, 2012 in Hollywood, FL

Sponsored by the WaterReuse Association, American Water Works Association, and the Water Environment Federation, the 27th Annual WaterReuse Symposium will provide an opportunity to learn about the latest innovations in water reuse and desalination. Topics include industrial reuse, sustainability, water quality, seawater desalination, decentralized reuse, brackish water desalination, Membrane Bioreactor systems, aquifer storage and recovery, disinfection, groundwater recharge, and public engagement. There will also be special presentations focusing on Florida's water supply and water quality challenges. Award-winning journalist Charles Fishman will deliver the keynote address. Fishman's latest book, *The Big Thirst*, examines how water resources will come to define this century. For more information on the symposium and workshops and to access the registration link, please visit: <https://www.watereuse.org/civicrm/event/register?id=61&reset=1>.

Clean Water America Alliance's Urban Water Sustainability Council to Host Leadership Conference from October 15–17, 2012 in Cincinnati, OH

The Leadership Conference is organized annually by the Clean Water America Alliance's Urban Water Sustainability Council. The Council seeks to connect the dots among water, land use, parks, forests, transportation, energy, and other sectors around a goal of revitalizing cities with multi-benefit projects that produce triple bottom-line results. As a focal point for the national dialogue on resource recovery and green infrastructure, this Leadership Conference has been driving the notion of water as an integrating strategy for the urban environment. This year the Leadership Conference has invited the following cities to share their models of creative integration and innovation for sustainable urban water management: Cleveland, OH, Denver, CO, Kansas City, MO, Syracuse, NY, and Tucson, AZ. Multi-disciplinary and geographically diverse presentations will demonstrate the flexibility of green infrastructure to serve a multitude of needs. Strategic sidebar conversations will allow those at the cutting edge to compare notes and tackle obstacles. Roundtable discussions may shed light on emerging opportunities and challenges. For more information and to register for the conference, please visit: <http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07e5uje7cy32746835&llr=ueml5fdab>

Natural Floodplain Function Alliance to Hold Working Group Session - Solutions to Mitigate Flood Risk and Benefit Ecosystems: Incorporating Ecosystems Services Tools and Methods

On August 1-2, 2012 in Portland, OR, the Natural Floodplain Function Alliance will sponsor a two-day Working Group Session entitled: "Solutions to Mitigate Flood Risk and Benefit Ecosystems: Incorporating Ecosystems Services Tools and Methods". During this two-day session, the workgroup will be briefed on current Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' cost-benefit analysis approaches and a sample of local approaches to project implementation. The workgroup will then be tasked with: expanding on these to identify the full range of physical, social, and environmental costs and benefits associated with alternative approaches to floodplain management; synthesizing tools and methods for evaluating a full suite of ecosystem services associated with floodplains; and offering a framework for integrating tools for programmatic implementation and assessing which would or would not require statutory or regulatory changes. The end product of the working group will offer flood-risk management agencies at various levels of government a set of specific recommendations for using a more comprehensive framework for evaluating costs and benefits. This Working Group Session is part of a larger conference sponsored by the Ecosystem Services Partnership on "Ecosystem Services Coming of Age: Linking Science, Policy, and Participation for Sustainable Human Well-Being". For more information, visit: <http://aswm.org/watersheds/-natural-floodplain-function-alliance/2574-august-2012-working-group>.